



Paper Currency • World War II Memorial Issue
President's Message • Upcoming Meetings/Shows
Norway • RPA Library Exhibits • STEPEX Awards
ROPEX 2015 • Batman and Rudolph • Letters

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The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

Our Fall Meeting Season is in Full Swing

We kicked off our fall season of meetings by talking about money. Not the kind we all wish we had more of to buy more stamps, but paper currency distributed by the US postage service between August 21, 1862 and May 27, 1863.

On September 11th, Rochester Numismatic Association member Art Cohen led a spirited discussion of the pre-Civil War economy when a shortage of gold and silver coinage led to the issuance of fractional paper currency by the US Post Office. Given the banks reluctance and eventually inability to redeem paper money with gold and silver as the US borrowed gold heavily in preparation for the Civil War, the Treasurer of the United States Francis Spinner proposed paper postal currency.

Although this fractional currency was not intended to be deployed as circulating tender, it could be exchanged for US notes in \$5 lots and was receivable for all payments to the US up to \$5. The fractional postage currency notes issued in late 1862 and 1863 came in four denominations (5, 10, 25, and 50 cents). All four denominations bear the stamp motif. Fractional currency continued to be issued until 1876, but the oversight was no longer by the US Post Office currency. The four subsequent issues no longer included images of stamps. In addition to introducing 3 and 12 cent denominations, watermarks, complex inking, and other techniques were deployed in an effort to prevent counterfeiting. By the end of the 1870's coins were once again available and fractional currency, although still viable currency, was relegated to being a collection item.



The front of postal currency notes valued at 5 and 50 cents from the collection of RPA member Rick Kase.

"World War II Memorial Issue" by John Babbitt



Our first October meeting was a dinner meeting at the Morningstar restaurant in Rochester. After a dinner of lasagna or pork chops those present were treated to a wonderful review of the World War II Memorial by RPA member John Babbitt.



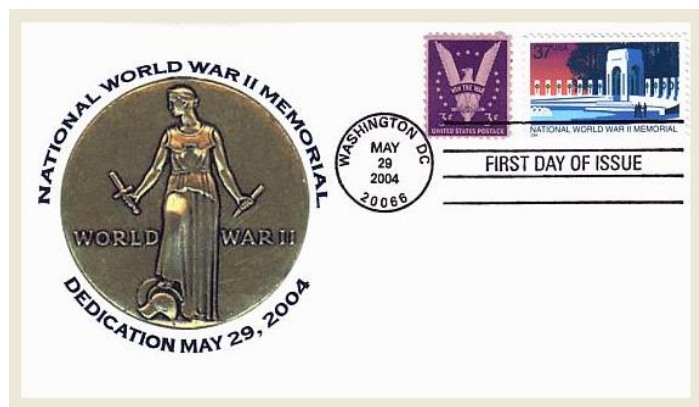
John Babbitt (standing on the left) speaks at the October RPA dinner meeting.

John had attended the dedication ceremony for the monument on May 29, 2004 and his presentation included an interesting integration of the 4-day dedication event and the associated postal issue and covers.



The World War II Memorial on dedication day, May 29, 2004. Photo by John Babbitt

Did you know that President Clinton authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a memorial on May 25, 1993, a full eleven years before the completed memorial could be dedicated? Selection of a site was controversial, particularly when it seemed that a monument at the desired location would interfere with the sightline between the Washington and Lincoln Monuments. But the winning design by Rhode Island architect Friedrich St. Florian set the monument low at the east end of the Reflecting Pool, thereby preserving the vistas from both the previous monuments. The Memorial honors the more than 400,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice during the four year war as well as the 16 million who served in the Armed Forces during World War II.



This first day cover includes the “Win the War” Victory stamp issued on July 4, 1942 (Scott #905) and a depiction of the World War II Victory Medal available to all veterans.

John satisfied our interest in the philately associated with the memorial by showing us many of the covers and caches that have been created to honor the overall World War II efforts and the Memorial issue itself. In front of what must have been one of largest attendances for a first day ceremony, Scott #3862 was released to honor the Memorial and the veterans who served.



Given that our October 9th meeting coincided with the first day of issue of the Batman set, Ray Stone and Fred Haynes collaborated to generate a cachet and cover for the event. Ray took the envelope for a First Day of sale cancel and all present for the meeting received a copy. He has a few left and is selling them for \$149 each, after all there are fewer of these around than Inverted Jennys! Just kidding, ask him if he still has one left. He might just give it to you!

A Philatelic Trip Through Norway *by Fred Haynes*



From 1997-2002, your editor had the wonderful opportunity to live in Stavanger, Norway on assignment in the oil industry. Naturally, my family and I found time to see the country and during the time I also sought philatelic material when possible. Since returning to the states I have continued to build my Norway collection, developing an exhibit on the theme. I enjoyed sharing this with club members at the Oct. 23rd meeting.

Given we had toured most of the country during our 4 ½ years there, I chose to combine personal photos and Norwegian stamps depicting similar locations, events, and people. From the beautiful fjords in the south, to the picturesque scenes and

continued on page 4 (see Norway)

President's Message



My fellow RPA Members,

As you know, we meet only once per month in November and December, and unfortunately for me, I will not be at either meeting due to some planned surgery. In my absence, I need your help. Our 2015 presentation agenda is incomplete. If you have not presented before your colleagues in some time, please volunteer to share your expertise, stories, anecdotes, pictures or whatever at a meeting. If you have computer fright, we have many members who can assist you with your presentation. Just see Carl Miller, who will schedule your presentation.

Also, it is not too early to think about next season's officers. Our constitution limits officer terms to two years. So, run for office and add to the success of our 102 year old association.

Lastly, many members were pleased with last year's holiday gift exchange. Please work with Florence Wright to make this year's swap a success.

Your President, Rich Spinelli

Upcoming RPA Meetings

Meetings are held downstairs at the Brighton Reformed Church, 805 Blossom Road beginning at 7 PM. The first half hour is reserved for silent auction viewing, show and trade among members, and general social interaction. The night's program kicks off at about 7:30 PM. An elevator is available for handicapped members.

Thurs., Nov. 13 "1898 Canada Map Stamp"
by Bob Lighthouse

Thurs., Dec 11 "The Catharine McKie
Correspondence of 1847 Issue Covers (Troy to South Easton NY)" by Mark Scheuer

Thurs., Jan. 8 "Christmas Seals"
by Florence Wright

Thurs., Jan. 22 "Flag Cancellations" by Charles
Adrian and "Mail Distribution in the 1800's"
by Larry Rausch

Thurs., Feb. 12 "Before Photography II"
By Mario Sarra

Thurs., Feb. 26 Everybody a Dealer Night

We will be looking for topics and presentations for March-May in the coming months. If you have a presentation or an idea we have spots.

Come join us. Visit the RPA website for an updated and complete list of Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 events and meeting topics.

TWO UPCOMING STAMP BOURSES

Saturday November 15: Buffalo Stamp Club

Where: VFW Leonard Post

2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, NY

When: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Info: www.buffalostampclub.org

Sunday December 7: RS Stamp Show

Where: North Greece Firemen's Field

3666 Latta Rd., Greece, NY

When: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Info: rsstamp@frontiernet.net



The RPA Exhibit in the Rush Public Library in

October: We will be in the Penfield Library by November 10th, the Brighton Library in December, and in the Henrietta Library in January.

NORWAY (cont. from page 2)

Nordkapp monument far north of the Arctic Circle, Norway has much to offer the tourist and the philatelist. 12th century stave churches, petroglyphs in Alta, and Viking history and mythology can be visited in person or through stamps. In the last century, the country hosted Olympics at Lillehammer, and ski jumping at the Holmenkollen in Oslo. They honor their heritage as a fishing center and their current fortune as a major oil producer, both won from some of the most formidable seas known to man. All of this and more make Norway a wonderful place to visit, or in our case, to live.



The Nordkapp Monument dedication in 1991 was honored with a stamp of the midnight sun looking north towards the North Pole. On the right, my three sons pose with the monument some 8 years later.

A pdf copy of the presentation can be viewed from the meetings page of the RPA website.

STEPEX 2014 EXHIBIT AWARDS

Multiple RPA members exhibited at STEPEX in Big Flats in October and many were award winners. In fact **Al Parsons'** exhibit entitled *"The Sullivan Commemorative of 1929"* won the Grand Award and **Ada Prill** was awarded the Reserve Grand for her exhibit *"What's a Telephone Good For"*. Other RPA members to exhibit and win gold were:

Ray Stone for *"The 14¢ Iceboat: Rochester's Second Transportation Coil"*

David Robinson for *"United States 'A' Eagle Rate Change Stamp"*

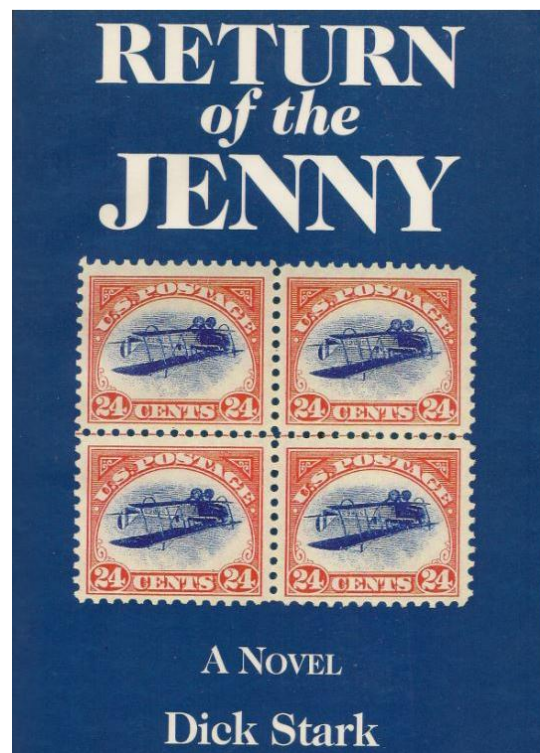
Ellie Steeb for *"Everybody Must Get Stoned"*

Al Parsons for *"19th Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schulyer, Chemung, and Tioga Counties, NY"*

Al Parsons for *"Corning NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Serviced by the Corning Post Office"*

Book Review

Do you enjoy a good mystery? Did you ever wonder what would happen if a second sheet of inverted Jennys suddenly appeared? Can you imagine the shock, the surprise, and the confusion that would be generated? Well, stamp collector and Long Island school teacher Dick Stark did more than just wonder. He developed a plot based on just such a scenario and wrote a novel. In 1997, Stark published *"Return of the Jenny"*. His plot involves an opportunistic postal worker who manages to salvage a sheet from destruction in 1918, but does not survive to reap the benefit. He did, however, hide the sheet and it was not found until the final decade of the 20th century when it was discovered by a non-collector school teacher in New York City. From auction action to U.S. Postal Service involvement, from unscrupulous dealers to fanatic collectors desiring their own "jennys", the book is a mix of intrigue, murder, and philately. It is a bit corny at times, but Stark develops his characters well and invokes multiple subplots to juice up the story. I enjoyed the read. The book was personally published and an online search was unsuccessful, but I do have a copy from my parent's philatelic library that I will loan if someone wants to give it a read. Stark has written two other books as well that I have yet to read, but own. First come, first borrow!



The Latest on ROPEX 2015



The Rochester Philatelic Association presents ROPEX 2015, taking place May 15-17 at a new venue, the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center. It's a short and easy 30 minute drive from downtown to the heart of the Finger Lakes resort region on the north end of Canandaigua Lake. Daily admission is \$2 per person Friday and Saturday, and free for everyone on Sunday, along with free parking all three days. A wide variety of nightly accommodations can be found nearby starting around \$70.

We are welcoming the national convention of the Auxiliary Markings Club. The show's theme honors Elvis Presley and "Return to Sender" in tribute to our guests. Cancel and cachet designs are available on the show's web site.

Exhibits in all classes may apply. Frame fees remain low at \$10 per frame for multi-frame and \$20 per single frame exhibits. Up to 150 frames of competitive exhibits will be accepted. The show is one of the last qualifiers for the 2015 World Series of Philately competition. A prospectus, PDF application and electronic application form is online, as are title pages, plans and synopses of accepted exhibits.

Table fees are also low for a three-day national show, starting at \$275. Dealers will find complete details and both an electronic and PDF application online. Stamps, covers, postcards, supplies, coins, ephemera and other related collectables add to the diversity of items available to ROPEX visitors.

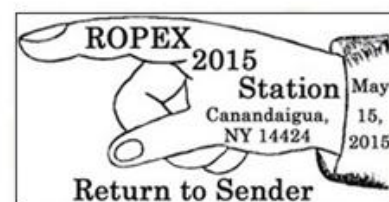
Youngsters in grades 3-12 in the US and Canada may participate in the annual "Design-A-Stamp" competition for cash prizes. The top three entries in each grade category (3-5, 6-8, 9-12) will be awarded \$50, \$25, and \$15 for 1st through 3rd place winners.

Go to <http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html> for full show information. Dealer inquiries may be sent to Bourse chair Dave Robinson at saferace@rochester.rr.com. Exhibitor and general show questions may be emailed to Tom Fortunato at stampmf@frontiernet.net, or write to RPA, P.O. Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206.

ROPEX'15 Welcomes the Auxiliary Markings Club to Canandaigua



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Coincidence? What do you think?



As a collector of minerals on stamps I had a copy of the 1999 Chad issue (Scott #842) depicting quartz and dolomite. But, until, as a member of the ATA Maps on Stamps Study Unit, I received my October 2014 copy of the "The New CartoPhilatelist" I had not recognized that if you turn the mineral stamp vertical, the outline of the mineral specimen is similar to the country's map outline: see Scott #68 (1961) on right. Do you know any other stamps with disguised or hidden maps? The Study Unit would like to know about them

Quiz question: How many individual stamps include a map of some kind? Take a guess and then turn to page 6 to compare your guess against the Study Unit's checklist.



To the editor,

While visiting my daughter in Rochester this September, I sat down to search for stores dealing in philatelic material. Among the Google results I found the RPA website. Much to my surprise the next meeting was only three days ahead. I noted the venue and asked my son-in-law for transport. To my delight I was welcomed as a guest and also invited to the second September meeting. Unfortunately I was sight-seeing in New York City that evening.

Actually what I admired most about the gathering was the overall attitude of friendliness and informality, and the far-famed American ingenuity for humour which accompanied the speeches. I introduced myself and was rewarded with very welcoming words. Many introduced themselves personally, and I was presented with some on-paper US stamps and a souvenir cover.

Who knows when I will next be in Rochester, perhaps in 2016. And when I do return I shall look forward to visiting with RPA members then.

Sincerely, Arif Mumtaz (Rawalpindi, PAKISTAN)

Editor's Note: Arif's visit also prompted a fairly unique international stamp gathering of three collectors. At the same time Arif was in Rochester, Jonah Ohayv, from Denmark, was in town visiting family. Jonah had inquired via e-mail whether anyone might wish to trade US commemoratives for Danish. I collect Denmark and Arif noted his interest in Scandinavia so the three of us from three separate continents spent a September evening in Rochester trading and talking stamps. Jonah had also learned of us through our website.

Arif noted he collects Scandinavia, Ireland, British East Africa and USA and that he welcomes correspondence with exchanging in mind. Anyone who wishes his e-mail address or physical address can contact me.

Batman and Robin Rudolph



On October 9th, a set of eight stamps were released to honor the comic superhero Batman. Four traditional vertically oriented stamps depict the flying masked wonder as he appeared in four different eras of the comic book series. In addition, 4 round stamps are included that show various incarnations of the Batman emblem. The set is certainly an appropriate theme to honor October as Stamp Collecting Month given Bruce Wayne's interest in stamp collecting when not saving Gotham City as Batman.

Another superhero got his place in postal history this month also. On November 6th, a set of 4 Christmas stamps will commemorate Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer famed for leading Santa Claus through that foggy Christmas Eve.



NBA star Wilt Chamberlain will be honored by two extra tall stamps to be released on December 6th. To some, this 7' 1" giant qualifies as a superhero also, but to Celtics and Knicks fans he was simply a nuisance.



Oct. 23 (set of 4)



Oct. 23



Nov. 19

Quiz Answer from page 5: The Maps on Stamps Study Unit Checklist lists over 38,500 individual stamps depicting maps. Lots to collect!